

REMARKS

The expression "ED-B" is a well recognized one and is the proper name for the domain of fibronectin which is involved. See the cited Neri et al. PCT publication, for example, as well as the rest of the prior art of record. Where a term requires no definition, it is not indefinite.

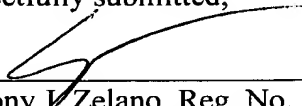
In view of the foregoing clarification of the claims by which the affinity of the antibodies is now more clearly recited as less than about 54pM, the prior art rejection should be withdrawn. Note that 54pM is the affinity of the antibody L19. See Table 2 of the application, for instance. This is not to imply that any of the scope of the subject matter of this application is not patentable. It is indeed presently intended to seek a broader literal scope in continuing applications.

Old mis-formatted page 27 has been replaced with new page 27, which is properly formatted. As for the sequence objections, these are the result of an apparent overlooking of the sequence disclosure-related amendments submitted on September 1, 2000. If these overlooked amendments are made with respect to the new page 27 (and page 14), all objections will be overcome.

The new recitations regarding mutations are clearly supported in the paragraph of the specification bridging pages 7 and 8, for example, as well as the examples. Note, for instance, example 2, pages 16 and 17 describing the mutations in the H10 antibody which led to the L19 antibody (a random mutation at position 32 in CDR1 of the VL and a random mutation at position 50 in CDR2 of the VL). Previously (pages 22-23), mutations in positions 50, 52 and 54 in CDR2 of the VH's of prior clones were used to generate improved affinity antibodies, e.g., leading to H10 (page 23, lines 8-9.) Other mutations earlier in the process are described on page 22. These descriptions clearly support the newly added claims drawn to mutations.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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